

Counterfeit Money: Learn How to Spot It

Charity workers handle money at millionaire party events so it's important to learn about U.S. currency features before your organization's event. Under Michigan law, the charity is responsible for managing its event, which includes chip sales.

Charities' workers should learn and use multiple detection methods when accepting cash:

- **Look at the printing quality:** Portrait is lifelike and distinct from background, fine border lines are clear and unbroken, not blurred, and ink is raised and doesn't bleed
- **Examine paper characteristics:** U.S. currency is printed on fiber-based paper with tiny, embedded (not printed) red and blue fibers; the bill should have a thin, crisp texture
- **Inspect serial numbers:** Should be evenly spaced and printed in the same ink color as the U.S. Treasury seal
- **Check for watermarks:** Embedded to the right of the portrait on most series 1996 and later bills
- **Look for fake corners:** Make sure the denomination is the same on the face and corners

Some organizations also use a counterfeit detector pen. The pen can help flag fake bills printed on wood-based, or copier, paper. It leaves a dark stain when drawn across this type of counterfeit bill.

The U.S. Secret Service [website](#) offers additional tips and information to help charity workers know their money and what to do when they encounter a counterfeit bill.

The U.S. Currency Education Program also offers training presentations and resources on working with cash: <https://uscurrency.gov/resource-center>